

From: Andreas Meyer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 11:22am
Subject: Microsoft and school donations

To Whom it may concern:

As someone who is professionally tied to using and administering many computer systems, I find that my concern over the Microsoft monopoly agreement is growing rapidly.

My main concern is that new technology and software is currently easily stifled by Microsoft. This affects me and much of my industry, since it means that high-quality, secure software is harder to obtain. Unfortunately, Microsoft understands that most of the market will reward them more for low-quality, low security software. While there are companies that try to do better, they find that Microsoft is also doing all it can to prevent new companies from offering competing companies.

I don't suppose that the punishment of Microsoft will do much one way or the other to deter them. However, the idea that as punishment, they should offer software to schools is highly counter-productive.

Why any punishment is linked to schools at all is pretty unclear to me. However, if they are to be fined by paying for school software, then it should not be Microsoft software. This is saying that as a punishment for abusing monopoly power, they must go out and extend their monopoly. That is more than a bit perverse.

If the penalty must be linked to school programs, then Microsoft should pay one or more of their competitors to implement to school computer program.

Perhaps one could evenly distribute the money between Redhat, Sun Microsystems,
and Apple to implement the school donation program.

Sincerely,
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